

Application No. 10/052,897

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

at a network element, processing information to identify network faults that are contributing to failure of the network element ~~because in which the identified network faults they~~ are a cause of other network faults occurring in the network element, and

based on the results of the information processing, sending to a network management station traps with respect to a subset of the network faults that are occurring, the subset including at least some of the network faults that were identified as having a causal relationship to the other network faults.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information is processed using a directed acyclic graph.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 in which nodes of the graph represent entities of the network element.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the result of the processing comprises information about the causal relationships among at least some of the network faults.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 also including requesting fault information from an entity that is part of the network element and which has not triggered a fault notice to determine if there is a network fault associated with the network element.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 also including reporting the traps to an operator of the network management station.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising

a network element having

network entities that are subject to network faults, wherein the network faults of at least some of the network entities cause or are caused by network faults of at least some other network entities, and

a computer program stored on a computer-readable medium bearing information capable of configuring a machine comprising instructions to cause a programmable component in the network element to

process information to identify network faults that contribute to failure of the network element because in which the identified network faults they are a cause of other network faults, and

based on the results of the information processing, send to a network management station traps with respect to a subset of the network faults that are occurring at the network entities, the subset including at least some of the network faults that were identified as having a causal relationship to the other network faults.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium bearing information capable of configuring a machine comprising instructions to cause a computer to:

determine whether network faults are contributing to failure of a network element because in which the identified network faults they are a cause of other network faults occurring in entities of the network element, and

based on the results of the determination, send to a network management station traps with respect to a subset of the network faults that are occurring, the subset including at least some of the network faults that were identified as having a causal relationship to the other network faults.

12. (Original) The computer program medium of claim 11 in which the information comprises a directed acyclic graph of nodes.

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13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein one network fault directly causes another network fault or is directly caused by another network fault.

15. (New) The method of claim 1 in which the subset does not include at least some cascading network faults that are triggered by the identified network faults.